

Items

From

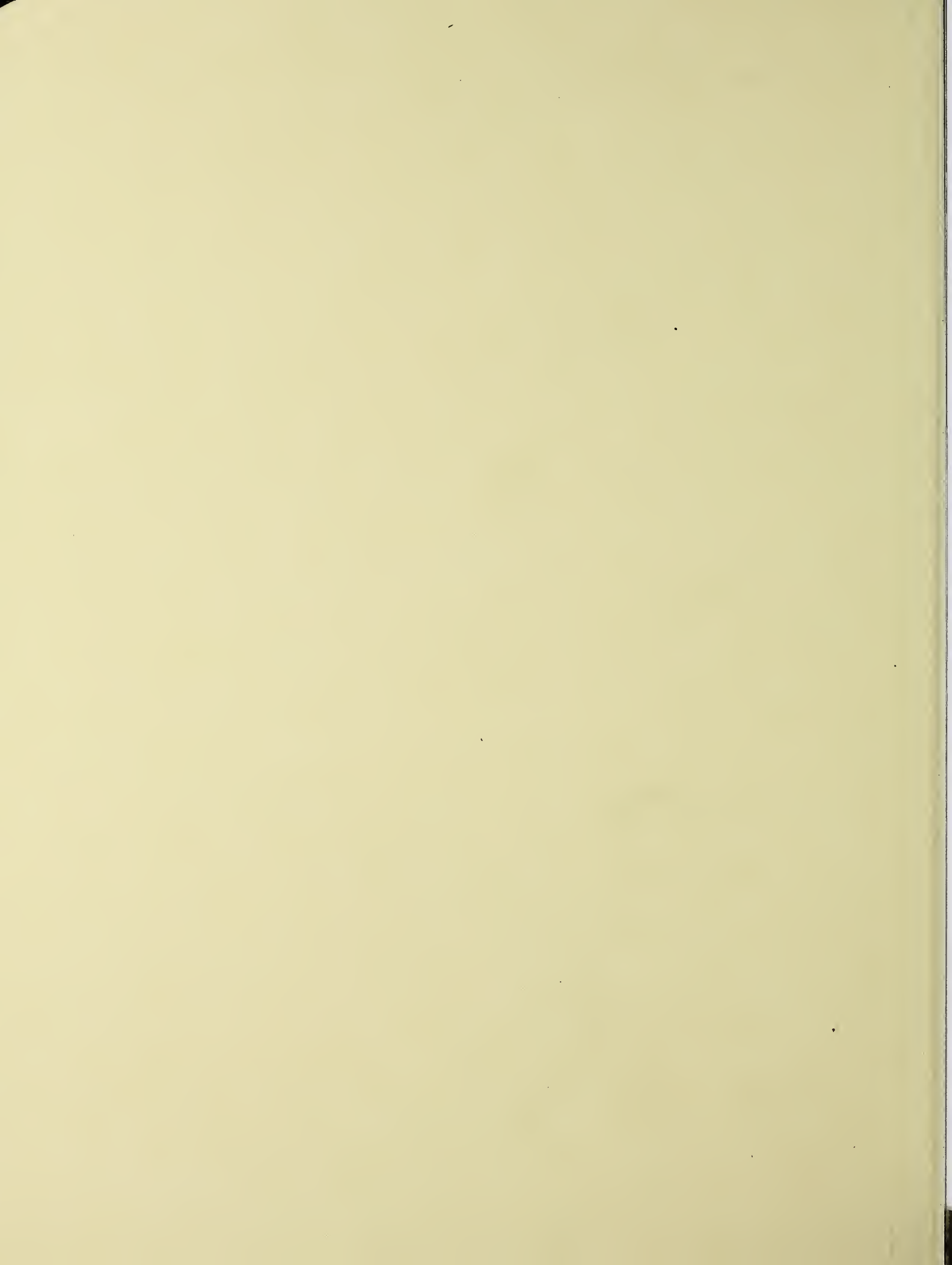
Springfield

Howe

Drawer 29

Architectural Records

71.2009 045 01021



Curios and Relics

Architectural Features

Items from Lincoln Homes

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Portland Man Has Chip Of Log From Lincoln's Cabin

Melvin C. Brandon Also
Values Rare Collection
Confederate Money

A piece of wood from a log in the Indiana cabin in which Abraham Lincoln lived, is an interesting relic owned by Melvin C. Brandon of Belmont Street, through inheritance from his grandfather, Lieut. W. C. Brandon, who fought on the Union side in the Civil War in the Tennessee infantry. Only 12 men of the company which Lieutenant Brandon commanded were left at the close of the war, and in 1868 they held a reunion at Middleboro, Ky.

One of them obtained permission from the government to remove a small section of wood from a log of the Lincoln cabin and the souvenirs of the reunion consisted of a chip from the Lincoln log set in a piece of wood a little smaller than a post card, with the date of the reunion and a brief account of the precious chip inscribed in ink upon the larger piece of wood, relating how it came from the cabin "where Abraham Lincoln was raised and spent his boyhood." Another bit of wood Mr. Brandon values is from Pres. Andrew Johnson's old home at Greenville, Tenn.

From his grandfather, he likewise inherited a collection of Confederate money, embracing several bills of large denomination, among them two \$50 and two \$100 notes. Practically all are fine examples of the engraver's art; and the pictures of contemporary life have today a quaint charm—the presentation of the side-wheel steamer with all sails spread; the mule-drawn wagons piled high with cotton, the reaping farmer, the splendid full-rigged ship, and the strange looking little engines and cars.

A pink \$10 bill issued by the bank of Richmond, Va., adds color to its other attractions; but perhaps inscription on the note with the steamer proceeding under full speed with steam and sails has even more appeal in the light of subsequent events. Dated June 2, 1862, it runs: "Six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace between the Confederate States and the United States, the Confederate States of America will pay \$1 to the bearer."

A larger frame protects 21 bills of the collection, while in a smaller, are displayed six bills of denominations less than \$1, scrip of 10, 25 and 50c value. One, a 25c scrip, adorned with an old-time engine and car, presents intriguing problems. It was intended to bear the signature of the sutler of the 1st Tennessee Cavalry, according to the fine print below the line, but was never filled out, nor was the number of the issue ever entered at the top. The inscription announces that it was "redeemable in Confederate notes when presented in sums of \$5 or its multiple." Just why a unit in the Union army should have fixed on Confederate money as a standard of currency is not very clear. There was however, more or less speculation in Confederate currency along the border and Mr. Brandon comments in this connection that some individuals gained possession of large sums in this medium during the conflict—and made a fortune despite the fact that Confeder-

ate money, finally became almost worthless, by investing what they obtained in real estate.

Mr. Brandon has also a collection of old coins including a large bronze one cent piece dated 1783, which bears on the face the inscription: "Washington and Independence" and on the reverse a laurel wreath with the fraction 1-100 at the base, surrounding the words "One Cent;" while around the outer edge is the legend "Unity States of America."

Born and brought up in Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. Brandon, then assistant city engineer of Knoxville, married Miss Georgietta Milliken of this City. After living in the South for a year or two, they came to Portland where they have made their home for the past 34 years. Mr. Brandon traveled for 25 years for the firm of Milliken, Tomlinson Co., wholesale grocers.

CARRIED LINCOLN'S
FENCE AWAY PIECE
MEAL AS SOUVENIR

Spencer, Ia.—At a banquet given by the Daughters of the American Revolution in celebration of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, A. L. Whitney, a veteran of the civil war, told his experience as one of the soldiers detailed to guard the dead president's body while it lay in state for two days in the rotunda of the capital at Springfield, Ill. Companies A and H, One Hundred Forty-ninth regiment of Illinois infantry, were detailed for this work. Mr. Whitney viewed the body twice while it lay there.

He mentioned the fact that a pickett fence which surrounded Mr. Lincoln's two story frame house in Springfield, was entirely removed; posts, stringers and pickets, by souvenir hunters, many of them being the soldiers.

1823

LINCOLN RELIC IS RECEIVED BY MRS. B. M. REID

rel St John 2-7-23

Mrs. Burton M. Reid, 852 South Lincoln avenue, has received a very interesting souvenir of Abraham Lincoln's family. It is a piece of the roof (with original wooden peg) of the building in which Mr. Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, married Mrs. Sally Bush Johnston, Lincoln's stepmother, who played so important a part in his life.

The souvenir is accompanied by a signed statement of L. H. Bush, nephew of Mrs. Sally Bush Johnston Lincoln, and a memorial pamphlet published by the Elizabethtown Women's club of Elizabethtown, Ky., where the marriage ceremony of Thomas Lincoln and Sally Bush Johnston took place Dec. 2, 1819.

This Lincoln landmark was a very historical old house, having housed many families of distinction in Kentucky. Among them was Gen. Duff Green, who lived there in 1814. General Green married a sister of Gov. Ninian Edwards of Illinois.

Mr. Squire H. Bush is the only sur-

viving member of a family of twelve children. He is now in his eighty-fourth year. Mrs. Reid is indebted to a relative in Louisville, Ky., for this interesting souvenir.

Yakima Dairymen's Association

509-11-13 WEST YAKIMA AVENUE

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE 3143

P.O. Box 37,
Sunnyside, Wash.
4-4-32

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In reply to your add in the Sunnyside
Sun will say that I have a piece ($7/8$ " long)
of the lightning rod off the home of our
Immortal Lincoln (at 6th & main Sts. Springfield, Ill.)
which was used during his life time.
I secured the piece of lightning rod from
James D. Sinclair who came in possession
of the rod and the kitchen floor.

If interested make me an offer.

Very truly yours,
E. J. Hancock.

April 11, 1932

E. J. VanCourt
P. O. Box 37
Sunnyside, Wash.

Dear Mr. VanCourt:

Dr. Warren has advised me to inform you that inasmuch as our facilities for displaying curios oblige us to confine our efforts to certain types of relics, we would not be interested in the curio you mention in your recent letter. We specialize particularly in books manuscripts, and letters, thus your memento does not come in with our plans.

I am enclosing some museum literature in which you may be interested, and I wish to thank you for your kindness and courtesy in informing us of this item.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel Hennessee
Assistant Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

EVH/h

G.G. GIRTON,
PASTOR, HOWE METHODIST
CHURCH.
HOWE, IND.

LINCOLN LIFE INSURANCE CO.
FORT WAYNE, IND.

DIRECTOR MUSEUM:-

Your many beautiful pictures of Lincoln received, and I wish to state that I am more than pleased. They make a valuable contribution to my Lecture. I certainly thank you very kindly for them.

Now I wish to apologize to you for not being able to address you by name, as my infant daughter made off with your letter to me as I was placing the pictures in my large book.

AS to your inquiry about the piece of shingle from the Lincoln cabin in Ky. (Size 3 1/2 by 1 1/2.)

I have a written statement which I intend to have attested which reads as follows:

"In the summer of along about 1905, there was a soldiers reunion held at Pleasant Lake, Ind. at which Judge S. A. Powers of Angola, Ind. was the orator. After his address he stated that he had a souvenir for any soldier present who belonged to the 44th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. My father, Peter Alspaugh, was the only soldier there from that regiment, so Judge S. A. Powers gave him the souvenir which was a piece of shingle from the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, and this is a portion of that shingle."

(Signed) L.E. Alspaugh.

The above mentioned L.E. Alspaugh is a member of my congregation, is well known here and is strictly reliable as to veracity.

Said shingle is 10/16 of an inch thick, shows evidence of great age, is of Oak, hand 'rived'. Mr. Alspaugh has the remainder of the shingle in his possession, as a gift from his father. I intend to find out something about Judge Powers.

Again may I thank you for your pictures

I am yours

Sincerely,

Rev. G.G. Girton.
Box 564

Howe,

P.S. I make frequent trips thru your city, and intend Ind.

to stop sometime make your acquaintance and inspect the museum. Will probably bring my big book along. Will likely not be soon as News-Sentinel, states that there is much contagion there at present. G.G.G.

January 22, 1935

Rev. G. G. Gorton
Box No. 564
Howe, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am sure Dr. Warren will be pleased to have your letter to place in our curio files concerning the piece of shingle from Lincoln's cabin which is now in your possession. Your description of this shingle is indeed very interesting.

As you may know, Dr. Warren is at present on his way to the far west on an extensive speaking itinerary. After his return in a few months, I will bring your letter to his attention.

We shall be very glad to have you visit our museum and library. It would also be nice if you would bring along your book which you described in your recent letter. We shall all be very glad to make your acquaintance.

Yours very truly,

Librarian

Lincoln National Life Foundation

RCM:AAM
R.G. McMurtry

"Drama of the Lincoln Shingles" To Be Sent Gratis Over Nation By Gene Hemmick, Is a Classic

WITH A TEAR-JEWELLED SMILE, J. E. (Gene) Hemmick thrilled me yesterday with his story entitled "Drama of the Lincoln Shingles." It's a classic.

"Gene," the "Sunshine Committee" of Rotary, is going to print the story in booklet form, and give it away—send it hither and yon, free, to meet requests which have come from far and wide.



V. Y. DALLMAN

My dear friend, "Gene," tells how, as a boy, he started in business in 1879 by selling the old shingles which were removed from the roof of the old Lincoln home, and into each of which he carved a silhouette, or shadow picture, of Mr. Lincoln. It is a beautiful story of a boy's vision and perseverance. Here's the way "Gene" will tell it in that booklet with a few additional details:

As a boy of 17, living with my parents in a little one-story dwelling in the block south of the now famous Abraham Lincoln home—stead on the street corner of Eighth and Edwards Streets, I was employed by Mr. T. W. Lloyd in a small grocery store at the corner of Eighth and Cook streets.

Several times every day I passed the Lincoln home, thinking in my boyish way of the sanctity of that historic old structure. One day I saw them removing the shingles from the old Lincoln home to make ready for a new roof. The thought came to me that if I could secure the old cast-off shingles and make them up into little ornaments or souvenirs, such as match boxes, brackets or easels, I might be able to sell them and to make a little extra money.

Going to Mr. Charles Dallman, architect and builder, and father of V. Y. Dallman, present editor of the Illinois State Register, I suggested that if he would give me the old shingles, I would clear away all of the debris around the house and leave the premises neat and clean. Much to my joy, Mr. Dallman agreed and my grocery store employer let me use his wagon during the afternoons when we were not busy at the store. Soon I had all the shingles stored away in a small woodshed in the rear of my home.

I did not tell anyone what I intended to do with the shingles—not even my mother. All who were interested thought I was going to use the shingles to kindle the fires. One evening when I went home for supper, I found that my mother had filled the wood box behind the stove with some of these Lincoln home shingles.

"Oh Mother," I said, "you mustn't burn those shingles."

My dear mother looked at me in astonishment and then I confided in her what was in my mind. I carried those shingles back to the shed and then found other kindling for the wood box and the stove.

Each night, after the grocery store closed at 9 o'clock, I would go to my room and, with a small hand-bracket saw, work up a few of the shingles. Capt. T. W. S. Kidd, a distinguished gentleman who lived next door to us and who was editor and publisher of the

Springfield Morning Monitor, saw me working every night as he went home from his office at midnight or later. One night he came over to the window and asked what I was doing at that late hour. When I told him, he was extremely interested. The next day he came to the grocery and I showed him a small show case which I had filled with trinkets made from those shingles.

The following day there appeared a full column story in Capt. Kidd's Morning Monitor which told what I was doing. The story was reprinted in many papers and magazines throughout the Nation.

In a short time letters began to pour in. Many of them were addressed to the Postmaster with a notation something like this: "Please deliver to the boy who gathered the shingles from the Lincoln home."

In an occasional letter there would be a dollar bill and sometimes two of them in payment for shingle ornaments which were ordered. As orders multiplied, I began to realize that my fondest dream was coming true. I placed the shingles on sale at several strategic points in and out of the city and with the custodian at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Then I conceived the idea of sawing out a profile or silhouette of Mr. Lincoln in certain of these shingles. I produced only the Lincoln head something after the order of a shadow picture. It went over big and before the end of the year, I was a real business man.

I hid away most of the money without letting my parents know of my savings, but was able to make a larger contribution to our family expenses. Time and again I would count my money after my parents had gone to bed. When I found that I had \$90.35, I was greatly thrilled and extremely anxious to make it \$100 so that I could give my parents a great surprise.

I went to my boss in the grocery store and asked him if he would lend me \$10. I told him I would pay it back after I had made a few more sales of shingles. Mr. Lloyd kindly advanced the \$10. That noon I ran all the way home to tell the folks. I took my money box from its hiding place and tucked the \$10 bill under the silver. Then my courage failed me. Several times they called me to dinner but I didn't respond. My youngest sister came to my room to inquire what was the matter. Upon seeing the open box, her eyes fairly popped out as she exclaimed: "Oh Gene, where in the world did you get all of that money?"

Then they all came running to see what had happened. I was so happy my throat choked and I couldn't speak. Tears of joy actually trickled down my cheeks as the members of the family looked at me in utter amazement.

We took the box of money out to the table and everybody had a hand in stacking it up and counting it. Mother said we must not spend it but put all of it in the bank.

The next day we did take that box of money to the bank and, boy-like, I was convinced that I was then and there—a banker.

Yes, I was thrilled through and through. I was the happiest boy in the world. I have often thought in later years that if in some miraculous way, somebody had bestowed a million dollars upon me in cash, I wouldn't be nearly as happy as I was as a boy on that eventful day with that \$100, acquired from the Lincoln shingles.

Of course, my employer, the grocer, was soon reimbursed. The drama of the Abraham Lincoln shingles had paid me rich dividends. Two years later—in 1879—I took that \$100 from the bank, and with a friend and partner, Hugh Montgomery, who had \$500, we launched into the grocery business which was known as "The Star Grocery" at 405 East Monroe street.

JUNE 1956

THIS WATER BOARDING WAS FOUND
ON THE WALL OF LINCOLN'S HOME
BETWEEN THE GUEST BED ROOM AND

ROBERT T. LINCOLN'S BED ROOM.

IT HAD BEEN COVERED OVER WHEN
THE SECOND STORY WAS ADDED IN 1856

THIS SHOWS THE QUAKER BROWN PRINT ON
THE HOUSE IN 1856.

Lincoln Home

This weatherboarding was found on the wall of Lincoln's home between the guest bedroom and Robert T. Lincoln's bedroom. It had been covered over when the second story was added in 1856. This shows the Quaker brown paint on the house in 1856.

